

literature, it was identified as *Alysicarpus ovalifolius* (Schumach.) J. Leon. which has not been reported from the Eastern Ghats. Hence, the present collection of *Alysicarpus ovalifolius* (Schumach.) J. Leon is a new record for Eastern Ghats. The specimen has been deposited in the herbarium of the Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University (SKU), Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh. A detailed description and an illustration are given to facilitate identification.

Alysicarpus ovalifolius (Schumach.) J. Leon. *In: Bull. Jard. Bot. Etat. Brux.* 24: 88. 1964; Sanj. & Bhatt. *In: J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 75: 254. 1978. *Hedysarum ovalifolium* Schumach. *Beskr. Guin. Pl.* 359. *Desmodium ovalifolium* (Schumach.) Walp., *Rep.* 1: 737, 1842.

Annual erect or prostrate herb, up to 50 cm height, branchlets glabrous, striate, branches rooting at nodes with longer internodes. Stipules lanceolate, 0.6-1.3 cm long, striate, acuminate. Petiole 0.5-1 cm long, furrowed on the upper side. Leaves unifoliate, apex acute and mucronulate, base sub-cordate, margin entire, puberulous on the nerves beneath. Inflorescence terminal or leaf opposed, in lax racemes usually with 6-7 pairs of flowers, peduncle 2-3 cm long, pedicel 1 mm long, bracts 4-5 x 1-2 mm, ovate to lanceolate. Calyx tube 8-12 mm long, puberulous, teeth 3-4.5 mm long.

Standard pink, 4-5 x 3-4 mm long, wings purplish, keels pale pink. Stamens diadelphous (9+1), staminal sheath 4 mm long, filaments 3 mm long. Ovary pubescent, 5 x 1 mm, style 3 mm long, bearded with long hairs. Pod 1-2.5 x 0.2-0.3 cm, joints 5-7, flattened, 2-3 mm long, puberulous; seeds brown, ellipsoid, compressed with reddish bald patches.

Flowering: August-September.

Fruiting: September-December.

Specimens examined: Upper Ahobilam TP & KSM 14206, Bogada RF Nallamalais KSM 17629.

Distribution: INDIA: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh.

EXTRALIMITAL: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Madagascar, Sumatra, Tropical Africa, China, Indonesia.

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32. ON THE TYPE OF *BAUHINIA WRAYI* PRAIN
(LEGUMINOSAE: CAESALPINIOIDEAE)

Larsen and Larsen (in *Fl. Males.* 12(2): 529. 1996) cited *King's Coll.* 5243 (K) as the holotype of *Bauhinia wrayi* Prain, but this is contrary to Art. 9.1 of ICBN (Tokyo Code, 1994), because a number of collections (Perak: *Kunstler* 2238, 2466, 4049, 5243; *Scortechini* 1652; *Wray* 1934, 2782. *Selangor: Kunstler* 8758) were cited (with the sign of examination) in the protologue of *B. wrayi* Prain (in *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal* 66(2):

191. 1897), and these should be treated as syntypes (see Art. 9.4 of ICBN, Tokyo Code, 1994). Thus, the selection of *Kunstler* 5243 (K) as the lectotype of *B. wrayi* Prain by de Wit (in *Reinwardtia* 3(4): 518. 1956) is in accordance with the rule (see Art. 9.9 of ICBN, Tokyo Code, 1994). In this connection, I would like to point out that the Larsens had accepted de Wit's lectotype earlier. This can be evidenced by their

own annotation (in 1983) on a determination slip affixed to *King's Coll.* 5243 in CAL, on which they annotated 'Iso-lectotype! (de Wit, Reinwardtia 3: 518, 1956)'.

Furthermore, *Kunstler* was one of the collectors of *King* (see Stafleu and Cowan, Tax. Lit. 2: 545. 1979, 2nd ed.), and on the 12 relevant sheets (type herbarium – CAL), with the field numbers 2238, 2466, 4049, 5243 & 8758, printed herbarium labels with the inscription '*Coll. H. Kunstler*' or '*Dr. King's Collector*' (also in print) had been randomly attached. So, it seems that the sheets in K may also have the same type of

labelling as in CAL. Under these circumstances, it is quite probable that the specimen cited by Larsen and Larsen as the holotype (*King's Coll.* 5243 - K) is not the same lectotype specimen (*Kunstler* 5243 - K) selected by de Wit, unless one of them had changed *Kunstler* into *King's Coll.* or *vice versa* intentionally.

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33. ON HELFER'S COLLECTION OF *PIPER RIBESIOIDES* WALL, FROM THE BAY ISLANDS, INDIA

The history of botanic explorations of the Andaman Islands dates back to 1791, when Colonel Kyd of the East India Company gardens at Calcutta visited these islands to procure timber trees. Subsequently, Dr Helfer, a Russian geologist who visited these islands to explore their mineral wealth in 1834, made extensive collections of plant material. Unfortunately, he was killed by the aborigines of North Andamans, and most of the specimens he had collected earlier from Tenassarim (Myanmar) got mixed up with those he collected from the Andamans, causing much confusion in their geographical location. Most of the species collected by him were collected again by later botanists and their occurrence in the Andaman Islands was confirmed. However, a few specimens are yet to be obtained, and their existence among the islands of Andamans is unconfirmed.

The tropical rain forests of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are known to possess many rare and potentially useful wild relatives of economically important plant species such as wild rice (*Oryza indandamanica* Ellis), wild tea (*Camellia kissi* Wall.) and wild nutmeg (*Myristica andamanica* Hook. f.). Wild occurrence of popular cultivars like coconut

palm (*Cocos nucifera* L.) and betel vine (*Piper betle* L.) among the islands of the Andamans are indicators on their point of origin. Many of them are promising in the field of modern agriculture and traditional systems of medicine. *Piper ribesoides* Wall., a species allied to *Piper cubeba* L. f. collected by Dr. Helfer in 1834 was deposited at Kew with the locality mentioned as Tennassarim/Andamans (sic). The occurrence of this species in Andaman Islands was doubtful till its recent discovery from the Mount Harriet hill ranges and collections made by one of the authors (S.P. Mathew 20558 PBL & K). During the present floristic survey, this species was found growing along the edges of the Semi-evergreen Forests of Mount Harriet, the highest peak in South Andamans near the Wright Myo village.

Piper ribesoides Wall., Pl. As. Rar. 1:79. t. 9. 1830; DC. in Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 75: 322. 1849 & Prodr. 16 (1): 342. 1869; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 81. 1886; Ridley, Fl. Mal. Penin. 3: 34. 1927. *P. sumatranum* C. DC., Prodr. 16 (1): 343. 1869; Hook. f., 1. c. 81.

Dioecious woody lianas; main stem c. 6 cm across, bark greyish, lenticellate with nodal annular rings, nodes swollen. Leaves 10-17 x